



USAID | UKRAINE

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CIVIL SOCIETY AND MEDIA



(Courtesy of UCAN)

Civil Society taking root in Ukraine

THE CHALLENGE

Civil society capacity to participate actively and effectively in the fight against corruption varies widely across Ukraine. Civic groups are not yet taking advantage of opportunities to band together effectively, on an issue basis or otherwise.

The level of professional investigative reporting is inadequate, and the media is not effectively fulfilling its watchdog function due to inadequate protections for journalists; lack of knowledge of investigative reporting techniques; gaps in laws and regulations governing access to information, and lack of practical knowledge of how to take advantage of existing laws to obtain useful information.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Foster civic activism
- Support development of NGOs
- Foster NGO sustainability
- Improve media legal environment; legal aid for journalists;
- Provide training opportunities for journalists at regional level
- Foster sustainability of regional media outlets

OVERVIEW

The trend of Ukraine's national and democratic development changed dramatically in 2004-05, when a new reform-minded administration was swept into office, in large part due to demonstrations by hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians in a peaceful civic movement against electoral fraud. In the months leading to and following this watershed moment, Ukrainian civil society has clearly demonstrated greater activism and a much more vibrant media landscape has emerged. USAID support has enabled NGOs to broaden and deepen their influence, create new sources of funding, and share successful strategies with other organizations. USAID assistance has also brought improvements in all areas of media development (freedom of speech, plurality of news sources, professionalism, business management and supporting institutions).

OUR PROGRAMS

Civil Society Development

USAID's civil society programs aim to foster civic activism through community partnerships, constituent outreach and youth leadership activities aimed at building organizational and advocacy skills and the organizations and financial capacity of non-governmental organizations. The Ukrainian Citizens Action Network UCAN and the Eurasia Foundation programs provide grants to a wide range of civil society organizations in all oblasts of Ukraine. UCAN also provides technical assistance and networking resources and reaches out to ordinary citizens through community partnership, constituent outreach and youth leadership activities aimed at developing citizens' advocacy skills and building the financial and organizational capacity of non-governmental organizations, as well as technical assistance for providing the legal and regulatory framework for civic activism in Ukraine.

Media Development

The Strengthening Independent Media in Ukraine program aims to protect the right of free speech, promote fair professional practices, increase the availability and quality of news, and ensure an independent, financially viable media. The Ukraine Reform Education Program (UREP) conducts nationwide public education activities to promote awareness and participation by Ukrainian citizens in economic, social and democratic reforms.

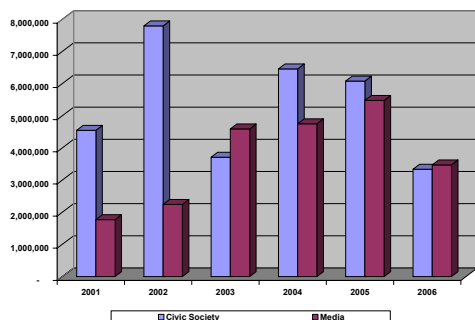
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Civil Society Development

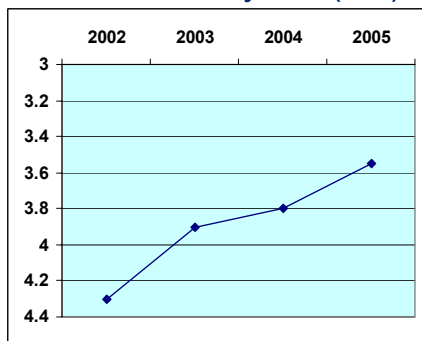
Over the past year, USAID's implementing partners competitively awarded 166 grants totaling \$1,874,336 to Ukrainian NGOs in support of advocacy and legislative reform, private enterprise development, public administration and policy reform.

USAID grantees successfully mobilized thousands of citizens to learn, exercise, and protect their rights. Civic groups and coalitions became increasingly active in initiatives to ensure free and fair elections in

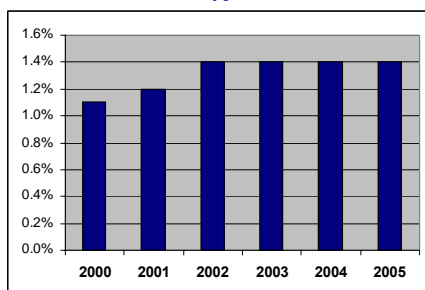
Civic Society and Media Budgets, FY 01-06



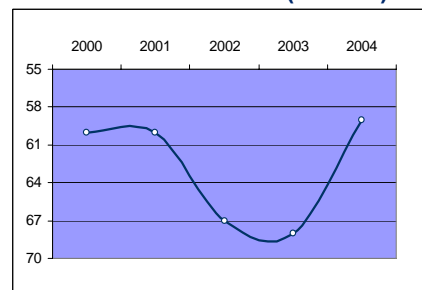
NGO Sustainability Index (7→1)



Media Sustainability Index (0→4) %



Freedom of Press (100→1)



Implementing Partners

Civic Society Programs: Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), The Eurasia Foundation

Media Development Programs: Center for Ukrainian Reform Education (CURE), Internews-Ukraine

Ukraine. In 2004, 45% of NGOs included advocacy in their activities, compared to only 16% in 2002. According to the annual USAID NGO Sustainability Index (NGOSI) Report, the advocacy score of Ukrainian NGOs has improved from 3.4 in 2003 to 3.1 in 2004.

The UCAN program successfully worked to: 1) ensure that the 2005 Budget Law reinstated important tax exemptions for NGOs and deductions for corporate donors supporting charities; 2) bring laws on VAT and customs into compliance with EU requirements; and 3) draft amendments to the Law on Social Services, which will likely have a significant positive impact on non-governmental organizations nationwide.

More NGOs reported productive cooperation and support from government and business, as well as an increase in jointly implemented projects. The number of NGOs that do not implement any projects with state agencies decreased from 43% in 2002 to 31% in 2004.

In 2004, 42% of NGOs reported an increase in their funding, compared to 32% in 2002. The percentage of NGOs willing to undergo an external audit has almost doubled - from 26% in 2002 to 50% in 2004.

Polish American Ukrainian Cooperative Initiative, an NGO initially supported by USAID, became a self-sustaining foundation in 2005.

Media Development

CURE has developed a network of 25 press clubs in all oblasts of Ukraine, TV and radio programs, an information hotline, periodicals and other print materials, websites and more. In 2005, the press clubs organized more than 1,000 meetings in all oblasts in which more than 14,000 national and regional journalists took part. The meetings gave journalists access to a variety of information on a wide range of topics, which ensured citizens access to a broad array of information.

UREP radio programs now draw an average of 18.8 million listeners each week. The average audience for its TV programs is 9.4 million viewers a month. In 2004 UREP started TV broadcasting to 70 other countries via satellite. With USAID support, public awareness of reform issues among Ukrainians rose from 45% in 2003 to 48.6% in 2004.

In 2005, with USAID assistance, Internews-Ukraine produced 29 election-related analytical television programs retransmitted via satellite by 35 regional and national broadcasters.

USAID-supported NGO Telekritika has published hard-hitting articles on current events during the election period, posting the results of its media monitoring on its website for public consumption.

USAID's annual Media Sustainability Index (MSI) report shows important gains for media this year. Scores for plurality of news sources increased from 1.6 in 2003 to 1.81 in 2004; for free speech from 1.7 in 2003 to 2.08 in 2004; for professional journalism from 1.25 in 2003 to 1.52 in 2004; for supporting institutions from 1.90 in 2003 to 2.17 in 2004; and for business management from 1.99 in 2003 to 2.24 in 2004. Further, USAID-assisted regional broadcast outlets increased the amount news available by 41% in this period.

USAID assistance has helped develop two effective TV and radio associations, which support the long-term growth and sustainability of Ukraine's independent media.

For more information, please contact USAID/Ukraine Development Outreach & Communications, tel. (380 44) 537 4600 or visit <http://ukraine.usaid.gov>